

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/018,145

Examiner

Sing P Chan

Applicant(s)

LIEDTKE ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 28, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert W. Becker on August 12, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

23. An apparatus for joining together at least two substrates, each of which has an inner hole, said apparatus comprising:

a pin that is adapted to said inner holes of said substrates,

wherein said pin is provided with at least two noses that are movable radially relative to said pin, and

wherein said at least two noses have linear outer surfaces upon which edges of said inner holes of said substrates can glide downwardly during movement of said noses toward said pin, and wherein said noses guide the downward movement of the substrates.

### **Marked Version Showing Changes Made**

23. An apparatus for joining together at least two substrates, each of which has an inner hole, said apparatus comprising:

a pin that is adapted to said inner holes of said substrates,

wherein said pin is provided with at least two noses that are movable radially relative to said pin, and

wherein said at least two noses have linear outer surfaces upon which edges of said inner holes of said substrates can glide downwardly during movement of said noses toward said pin, and wherein said noses guide the downward movement of the substrates.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 23-45 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims recite an apparatus for joining together at least two substrates, each of which has an inner hole. The apparatus includes a pin adapted to the inner holes of the substrates with the pin includes at least two noses movable radially relative to the pin, and the noses includes linear outer surfaces upon which the edges of the inner holes of the substrate can glide downwardly during movement of the noses toward the pin and the noses guide the downward movement of the substrate. Shinobu (JP 64-052238) discloses an apparatus for bonding two substrates. The apparatus includes a centering or guiding shaft with leaf springs, i.e. noses, projecting from the hollow part of the shaft, which is adapted to guide the substrates with though their inner holes, spaced apart the substrates, and allow the substrates to glide downward toward each other to effect bonding of the two substrates. (See English abstract of JP 64-052238 and as translated by

Translator) Shinobu does not disclose the noses have linear outer surfaces, which edges of the inner holes of the substrates can glide downward during movement of said noses toward pin. Cook et al (U.S. 6,612,355) discloses an apparatus for applying a label to a disk. The apparatus includes a hub, i.e. pin, and legs, which are biased to the first position and movable to a second position to guide a disk onto a label, both with a center hole. (Col 3, lines 30-43)

However, the filing date of Cook et al disqualified it as a prior art. Wien et al (U.S. 6,748,994) discloses a label applicator. The applicator includes a spindle, i.e. pin, and leaves, i.e. noses, for guiding the position of the disk onto the label. (Col 12, line 61 to Col 13, line 7) However, the filing date of Wien et al disqualified it as a prior art. A search of the prior art of record did not disclose reference or references in combination with the recited features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sing P Chan whose telephone number is 571-272-1225. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM-11:00AM and 12:00PM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher A Fiorilla can be reached on 571-272-1187.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Chan Sing P*

spc

*Sue A. Purvis*  
**SUE A. PURVIS**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**